



Date: April 8, 2005

To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager

From: Katherine Parsons, Public Information Officer

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: City Report For Week Ending April 8, 2005

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending April 8, 2005 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine

Grand Prix of Long Beach hit the pavement this week. Read more about it at <http://grandprix.motorway.com/>

City Manager

City Council Chambers were filled Saturday for an educational community forum on liquefied natural gas. Presentations and comments from energy experts, port officials, opponents and supporters of an LNG terminal proposed for a site in the Port of Long Beach were heard. Public comment was taken. The Environmental Impact Review is due in June and the public will then have 45 days to comment on the report.

More than 100 people attended the second Community Forum to Address Youth Violence on April 4 at Cabrillo High School. It provided an opportunity for community leaders, residents, students and parents to obtain information on Long Beach resources that are available to help reduce youth violence and maintain community safety. The program was based on comments made at the March 5 Forum: community safety, after-school activities, respect for diversity and parental assistance.

Financial Management

On April 1, the bimonthly meter reading for the preparation of utility bills was implemented. On February 1, City Council authorized the City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract with Southern California Edison for meter reading services. This action, originally proposed in the Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan, will generate potential savings of \$984,007 annually, once fully implemented. Customers will still be billed monthly using estimated usage for the month that the meter is not read. A message on each bill will clearly indicate whether the usage being billed was estimated or was based on an actual meter read. The month following the delivery of an estimated bill, the amount owed will be "trued-up" to reflect actual past usage. Commercial Services Staff is fully prepared to respond to customers regarding the program. Customers can call 570.5700 or they may visit www.longbeach.gov under City Services, Utilities.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Health and Human Services

National Public Health Week was commemorated this week. Several senior public health professionals and volunteers were honored at a Department-wide staff meeting and awards ceremony on April 7. Additionally, a grand opening of the Farmers' Market, which will be open on Thursdays from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Main Health facility's rear parking lot, was held.

Police

The U.S. Congress declared April 10-16 as National Dispatcher's Week to recognize the professional, caring, emergency service work performed by Communications Dispatchers each year. During 2004, the Communications Division staff handled 720,444 phone calls from the public and other City Departments.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs Bureau

On April 3, approximately 368 guests and several dozen volunteers celebrated the 50th anniversary of Rancho Los Cerritos as a public museum. Several elected officials sent congratulations and spoke at the formal rededication, as did Bixby descendant Barbara Bixby Blackwell, Friends of the Rancho president Barb Velten, and Foundation chairman Mary Stanton.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The Municipal Golf Commission Hall of Fame committee will begin distributing nomination forms on **Friday, April 8**, at all City golf courses. Nominations are for members of the community who have "*left their mark*" on golf in the City of Long Beach.

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

The Neighborhood Resource Center will host *Building Corporate Partnerships* on **Monday, April 11** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This workshop will give residents and neighborhood associations an opportunity to learn how to develop partnerships with local businesses in order to implement a neighborhood project or event. Home Depot, Target and Wild Oats will participate in a panel discussion to talk about the programs they offer.

The Neighborhood Resource Center will host *Meet the Director of Library Services* on **Monday, April 18** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eleanore Schmidt, Director of Library Services, will provide an opportunity to learn about the many programs offered by Long Beach libraries.

Both workshops will be presented in English with Spanish interpreters available. To RSVP, call 570.1010 or e-mail JoAnn.Rojas@longbeach.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Community Development and Public Works

On **Saturday, April 9**, the Redevelopment Bureau, in partnership with the Traffic and Transportation Bureau, is hosting the third in a series of North Long Beach, Dairy Neighborhood Traffic Enhancement Project community meetings. The meeting will focus on potential one-way street conversions, the feasibility of increasing on street parking, and other possible street improvements. The neighborhood meeting will be 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at Jane Adams School, 5320 Pine Avenue. Spanish translation will be provided. For information, please contact Meggan Mensinger at 570.7755.

Library Services

Main Library Display

Treasures from the Archives: Notable letters sent to the Long Beach Public Library, which includes handwriting, artwork, and signatures from personalities such as Lionel Barrymore, Amelia Earhart, Helen Hayes, and Arthur Rackham are now on display. Location: Lower Level display case near Administration office.

A fundraiser for the Long Beach Public Library will be held at the Marina Pacific Barnes & Noble Booksellers on **Thursday, April 14**, from 3:00 to 10:00 p.m. Fliers with information are available at any Long Beach library.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On **Thursday, April 14**, California Recreation Center will host a Cambodian New Year Celebration from 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. The events will feature folklore music, dancing, food, and guest speakers.

AWARDS

Fire

The "Hometown Heroes" breakfast, sponsored by the American Red Cross was held on April 7, recognizing LBFD's Captain Mark German who received the Purple Heart at the Fire Department's Annual Awards Luncheon. He was honored for helping a motorist in distress who was involved in a vehicle that rolled over.

Captain German was interviewed on Charter's "Straight Talk." Joining Capt. German as a guest was Mr. Craig Watson, who is a Vice President at Charter Communications. Host Art Levine praised the service that the LBFD provides the community and expressed his appreciation to Charter for their partnership with the Department in support of LBFD's Annual Awards Ceremony.

Library Services

The *Western City* magazine featured the Library's Information Center for People with Disabilities (ICPD) in its April issue. The article highlighted the City's winning the Helen Putnam Award for Community Excellence for the Center in 2004.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Department

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1509 emergency calls for service: 126 calls for fires, of which 21 involved structures; and 792 emergency medical calls, of which 579 required paramedics.

Police

Citywide, police officers responded to 816 priority one, 1,796 priority two, and 11,791 priority three calls for service, for a total of 14,403. Officers made 751 arrests, issued 1,129 citations, and conducted 295 field interviews.

Health and Human Resources

The Preventive Health Bureau made a presentation on public health data sources for bioterrorism preparedness and response, and on Partnership for the Public's Health at the California Public Health Association's Bi-Annual Meeting in Oakland on April 4.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

The inaugural meeting of the Westside Business/Industrial Forum Coordinating Committee (WSBICC) was held on March 23. The Port of Long Beach, CSULB Tech Park, WestPac, Magnolia Industrial Group (MIG), West Long Beach Association, Council District 1, Long Beach Police West Division, Redevelopment Bureau, Public Works, and North PAC were represented. A lively discussion about truck parking and traffic problems developed and the group decided that not only should the WSBICC continue to meet, but that it filled a needed gap in communication between the participating groups. Another meeting will be held on April 21 in hopes of achieving a consensus on problem-solving approaches. The WSBICC is well on its way to achieving its goal of creating a forum in which Westside stakeholders can discuss issues that affect the quality of life and economic viability of West Long Beach, and will continue to meet monthly until all current issues have been addressed.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

Staff prepared main volleyball court area near Granada Avenue at the beach, for an early season tournament that attracted over 100 players.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Demolition work for the installation of ADA ramps from the parking lot at Marina Vista Park has begun. In addition, approximately 3,000 square feet of the asphalt parking lot will be patched. New partitions and tile have been installed in the restrooms at Wardlow Park and contractor selection is in process for installation of the concrete ADA ramps for the restroom entries. The pre-construction meeting was held for the improvements at the El Dorado Park administration building.

Sod has been installed at Rotary Centennial Park and the park opening is being scheduled following a plant establishment period.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Administrative and Financial Services Bureau

The bimonthly *Networking with the City of Long Beach* workshop was held on April 5. The event provided a forum for diverse business communities to learn the basics of how to do business with the City; learn about current City procurement opportunities; and network with their peers and City, corporate and other public procurement professionals.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Programs Bureau

On April 2, Boy Scout member Jonathan Kiser, Troop #134, coordinated a service project benefiting the El Dorado Senior Center. Jonathan and his troop members restored the patio area, by cleaning and painting the area walls. Over 50 troop members and their families participated in this event.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Marine Bureau

A ribbon cutting for the first completed dock in the Shoreline Marina rebuild was held on April 2.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Enrichment Programs

On April 4, CORE (Community Outreach Recreational Enrichment) staff attended the Community Forum held at Cabrillo High School. The CORE program provided flyers and information about the LB WRAP after school academic enrichment program and participated in the workshop at the forum.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Energy, Gas Services Bureau

From March 27 to April 2, staff completed a total of 2,807 service calls. This total included 897 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons, and 897 Turn Offs. During this period, 800 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 213-meter maintenance and billing related orders were completed. In addition, Gas Control/Dispatch (24/7 operation) received 539 emergency phone calls that resulted in 92 emergency orders being sent out.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Public Works Department, Fleet Services Bureau (continued)

As of March 31, the Towing Operations and Lien Sales Division is 5 percent above the total number of impounds executed during the same period last year. Additionally, the Lien Sales Section is experiencing an increase in the sale of vehicles. The net result of this activity is an approximate 11.5 percent increase in revenue through the first half of the year.

Staff continues to provide primary support to the Long Beach Police Department in its efforts to keep unlicensed drivers and vehicles used for soliciting prostitution off Long Beach streets. In this effort, the Division has maintained an increasingly growing inventory of 30-day impounds of vehicles that keeps the

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OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Public Works Department, Fleet Services Bureau (continued)

impound facility at its maximum capacity. To date, the daily average storage of vehicles is 12 percent above last year or 1,647 vehicles in the inventory per day.

Staff continues to assist the Long Beach Police Department in the execution of Special Operations such as DUI Checkpoints and Prostitution Abatement Programs. Other programs the Division continues to execute are the Holiday Don't Drink and Drive Vehicle Display Program and the Fire Training Vehicle Extraction Exercise Program in addition to the support of special events such as the Long Beach Toyota Grand Prix.

GRM: KP: ac

cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager
Suzanne Mason, Deputy City Manager
City Manager Department Heads
Tom Modica, Acting Manager of Government/Public Affairs
Jyl Marden, City Council Liaison